

IVÁN BRANDON  
NIC KLEIN  
#16

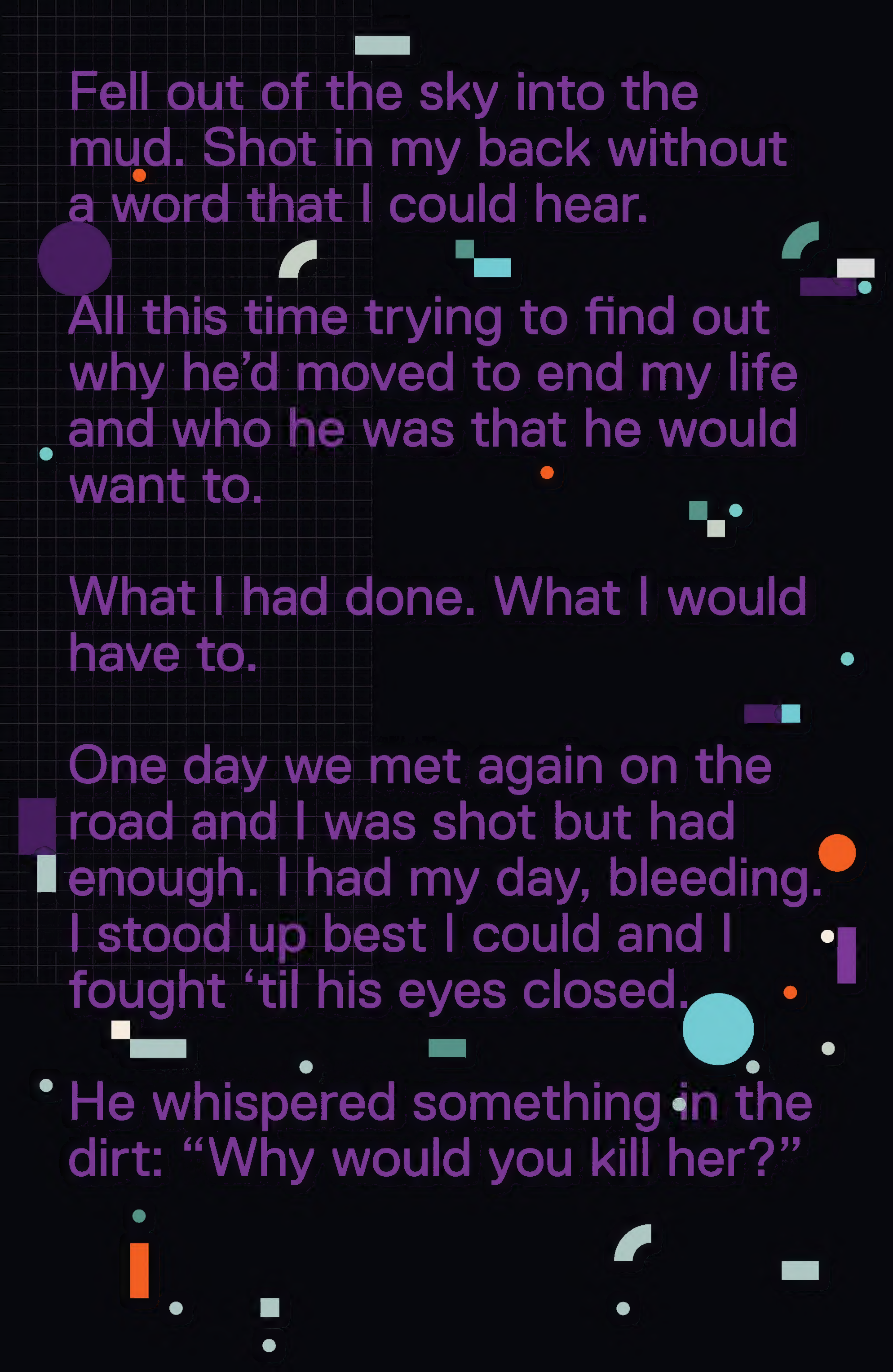


# DEFENDERS

N  
20  
12

TM





Fell out of the sky into the mud. Shot in my back without a word that I could hear.

All this time trying to find out why he'd moved to end my life and who he was that he would want to.

What I had done. What I would have to.

One day we met again on the road and I was shot but had enough. I had my day, bleeding. I stood up best I could and I fought 'til his eyes closed.

He whispered something in the dirt: "Why would you kill her?"





VENGEANCE  
IS MINE.

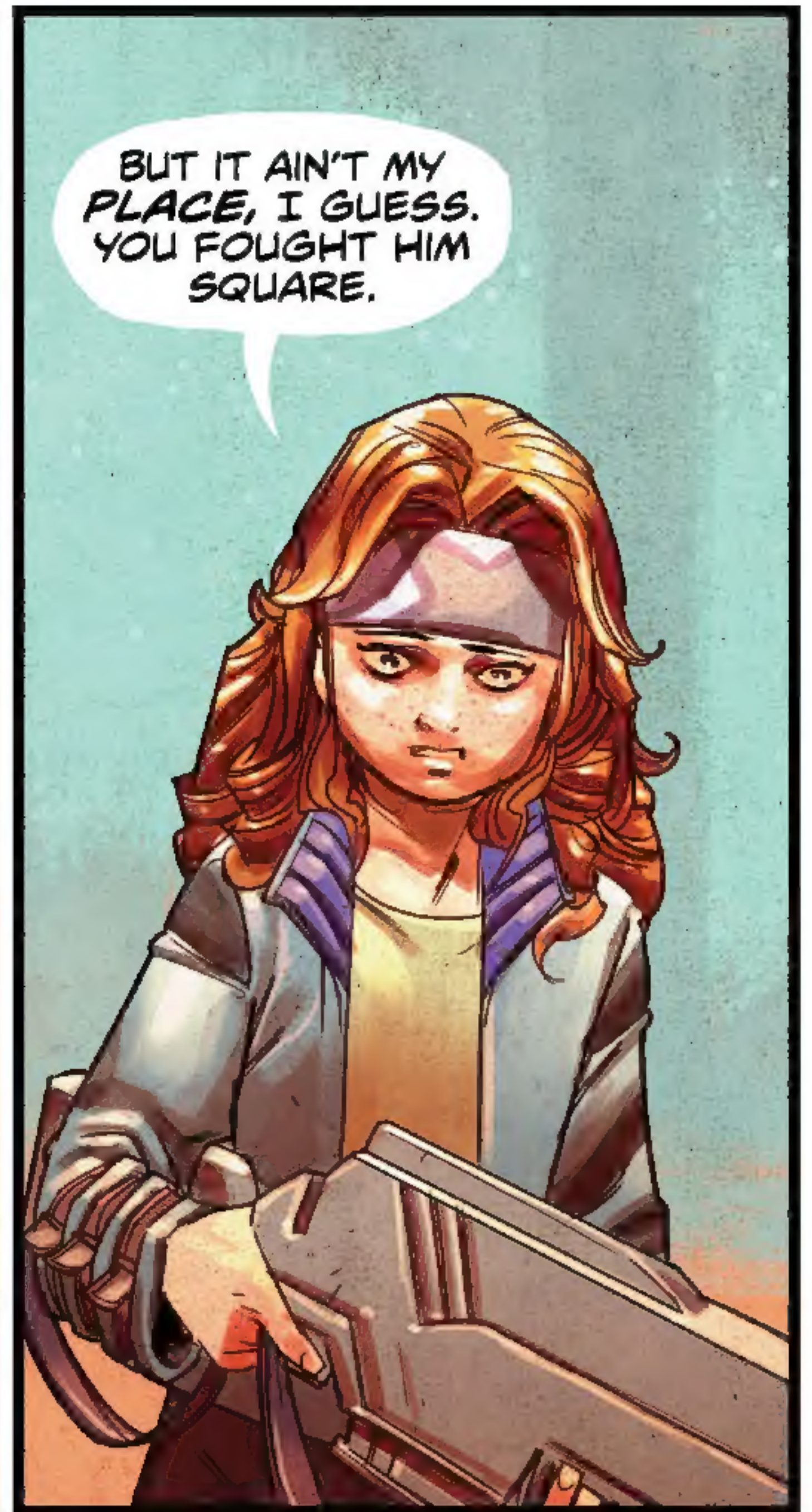


BUT IT DON'T  
HELP A LICK.

I SAID  
STEP  
BACK.

WE'RE  
HEADED QUICK  
TO END UP  
DEAD.









GLIN  
DOESN'T  
WORK.



THE WAY  
YOUR  
DIDN'T.

MINE GOT  
DROWNED  
BY ALL THAT  
MUCK AND  
WATER.



ANY ONE'A  
YOU CARE  
THIS MAN IS  
DYING?!



HE'S  
BREATHING  
STILL.

BUT  
NOT FOR  
LONG.

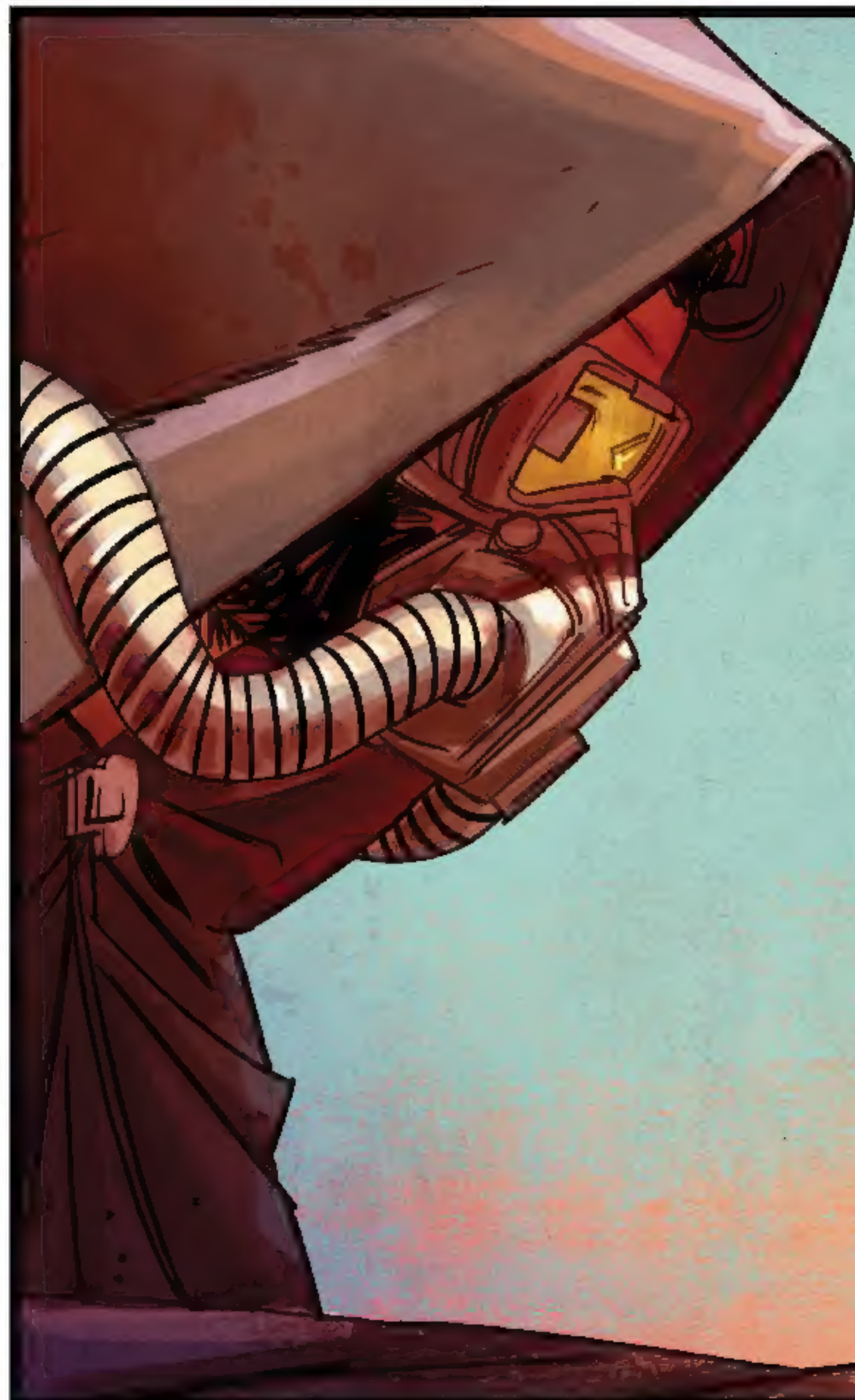
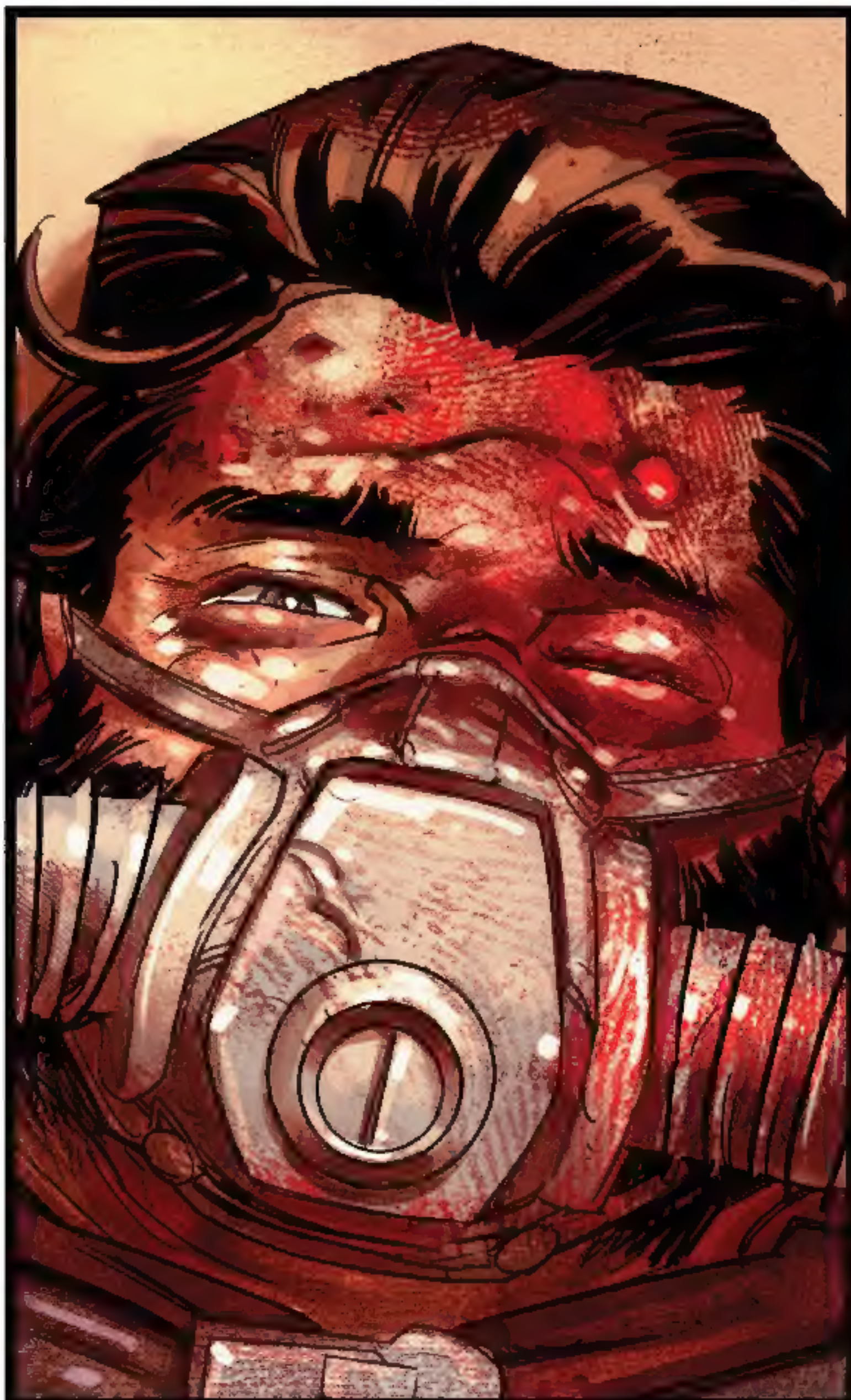




CAMP'S GONE AND I CAN'T TREAT HIM HERE.



WHAT IS THIS PLACE?



WHAT WAS IT EVER?

ALL YOU GHOSTS, FOLLOWIN' AROUND.

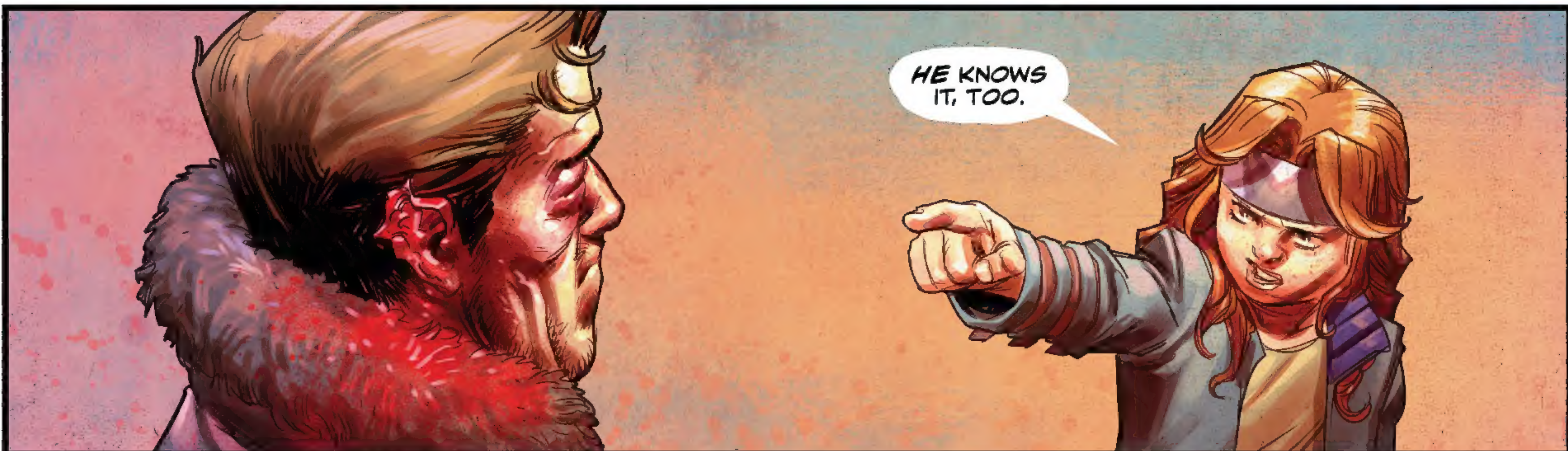


...NOW THERE'S A GHOST OF ME.

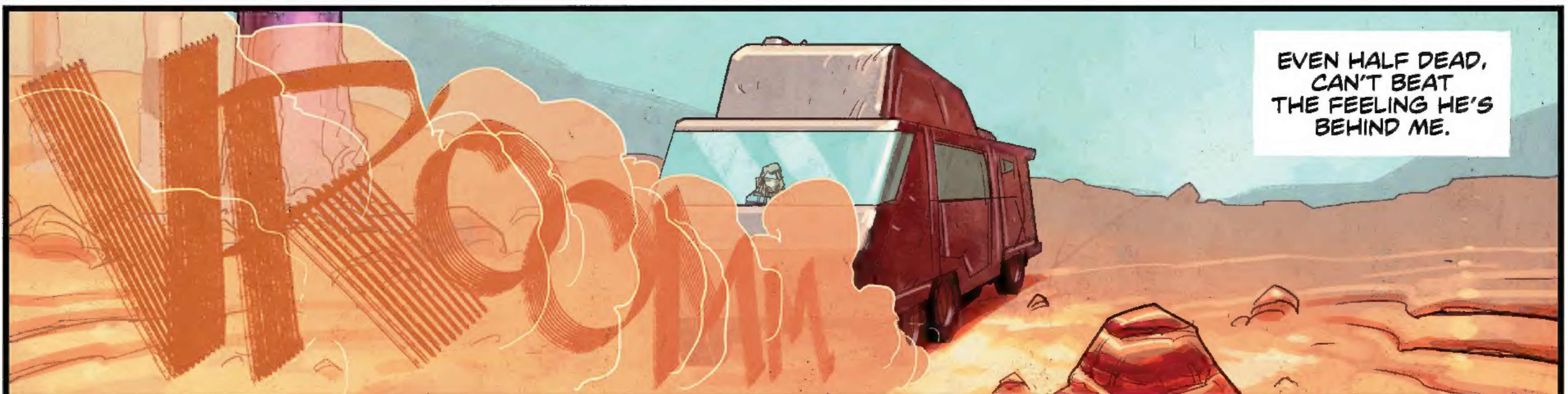


...I GUESS I'M DONE.







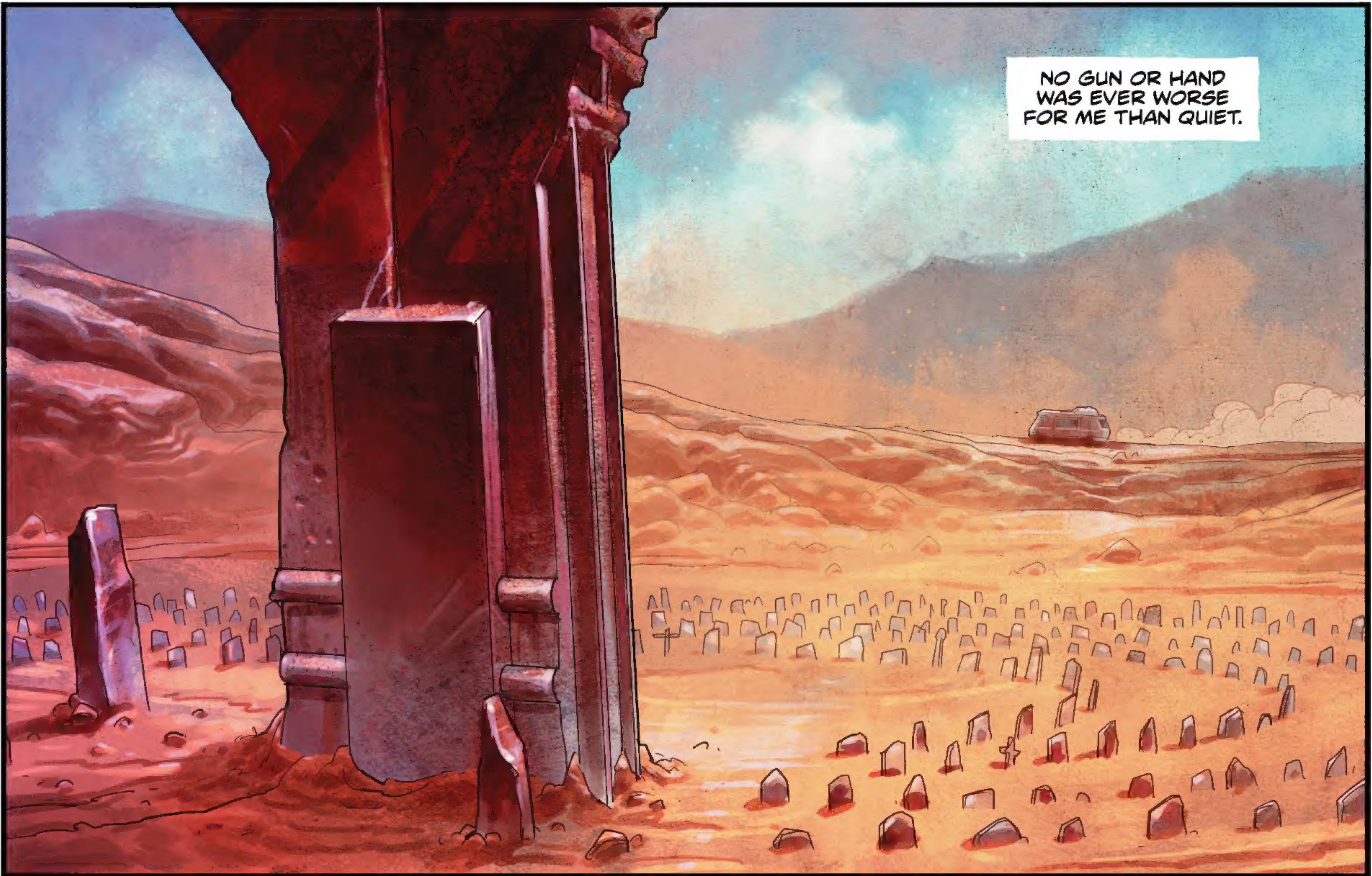




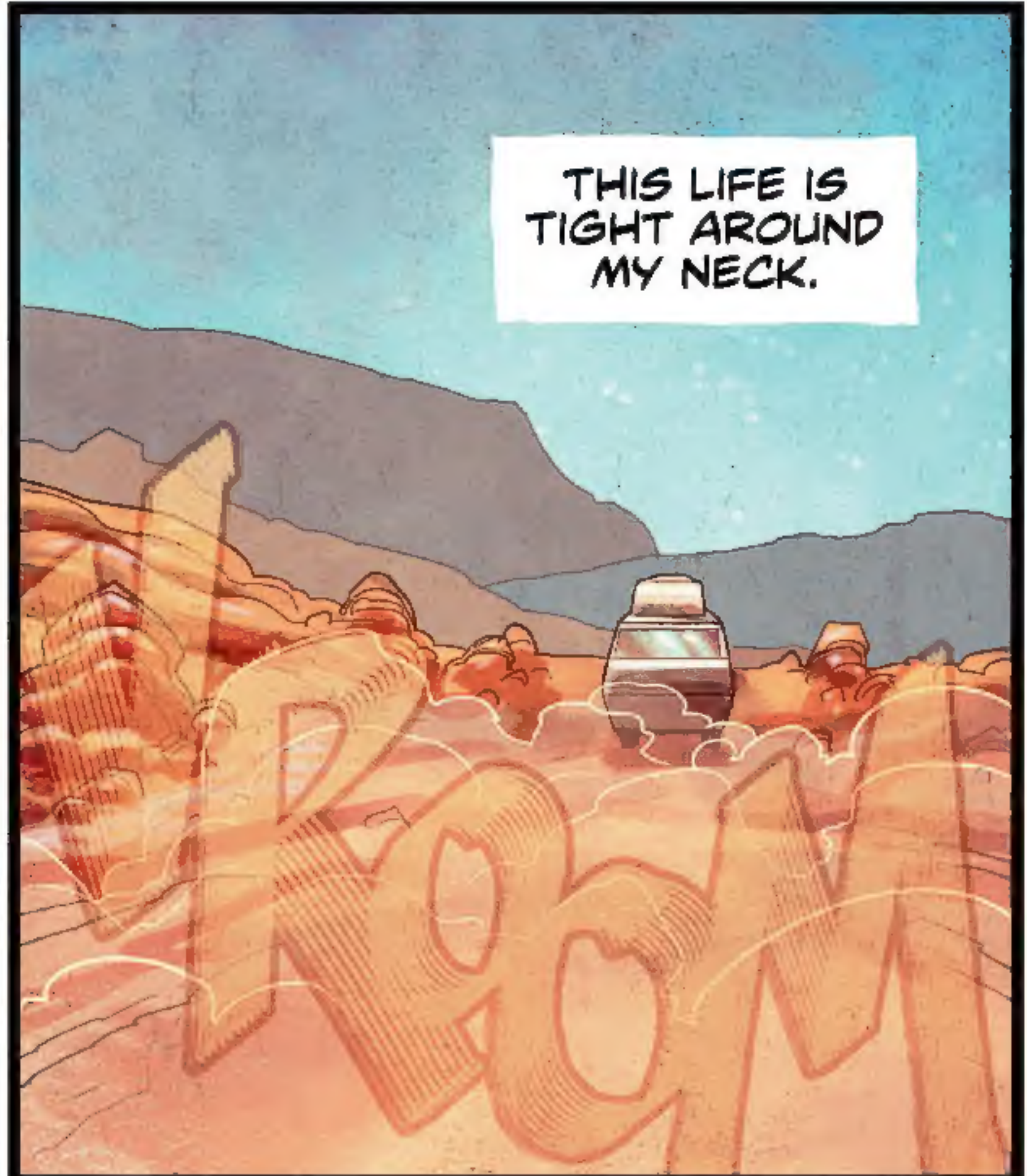
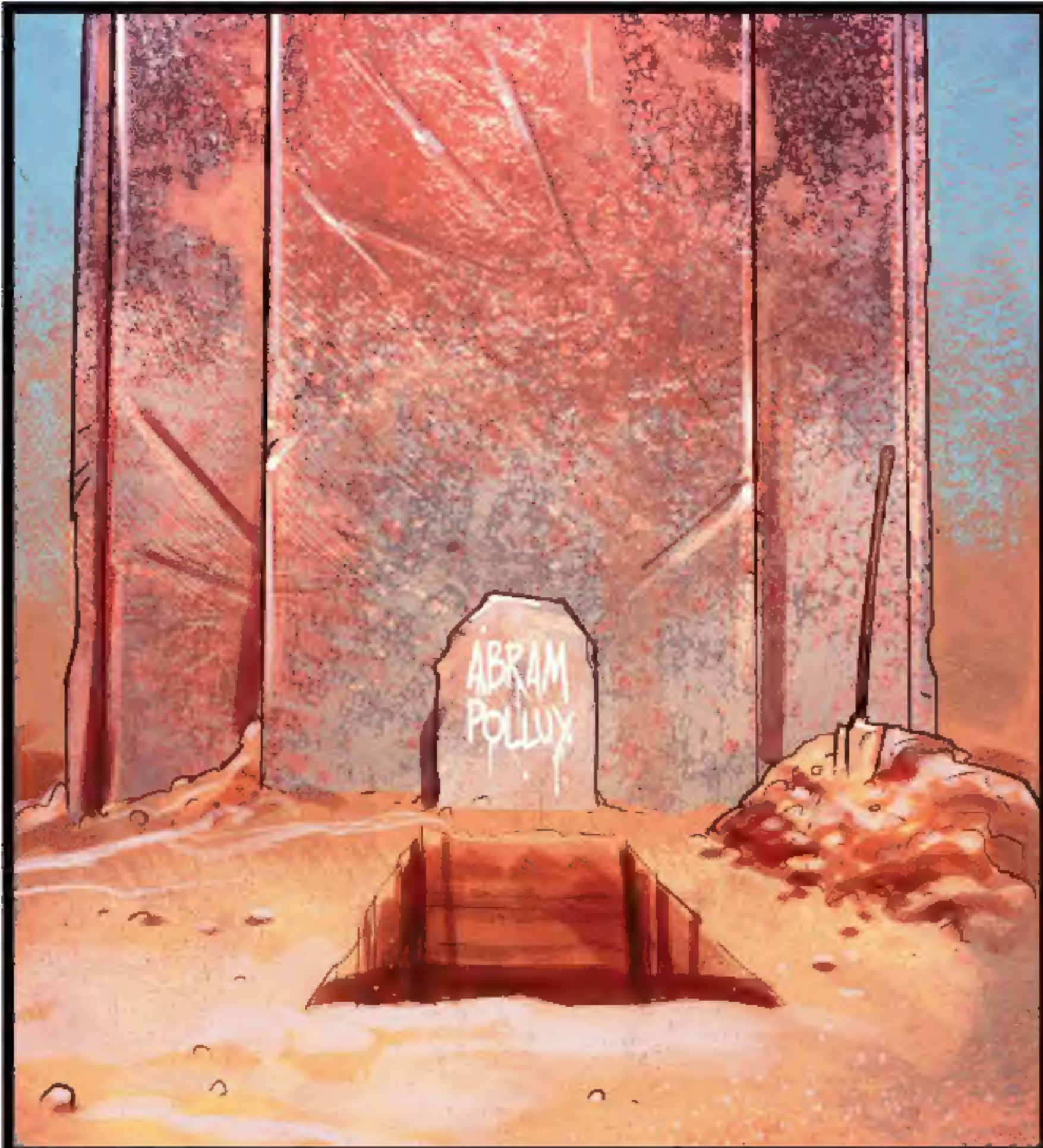


HIM ON THE GROUND,  
COUNTING HIS  
LAST BREATHS...

WHY'S IT STILL  
FEEL LIKE I'M  
THE GUY  
WHO LOST  
THE FIGHT?



NO GUN OR HAND  
WAS EVER WORSE  
FOR ME THAN QUIET.



THIS LIFE IS  
TIGHT AROUND  
MY NECK.











I'VE NEVER  
USED ONE  
OF THESE  
THINGS.

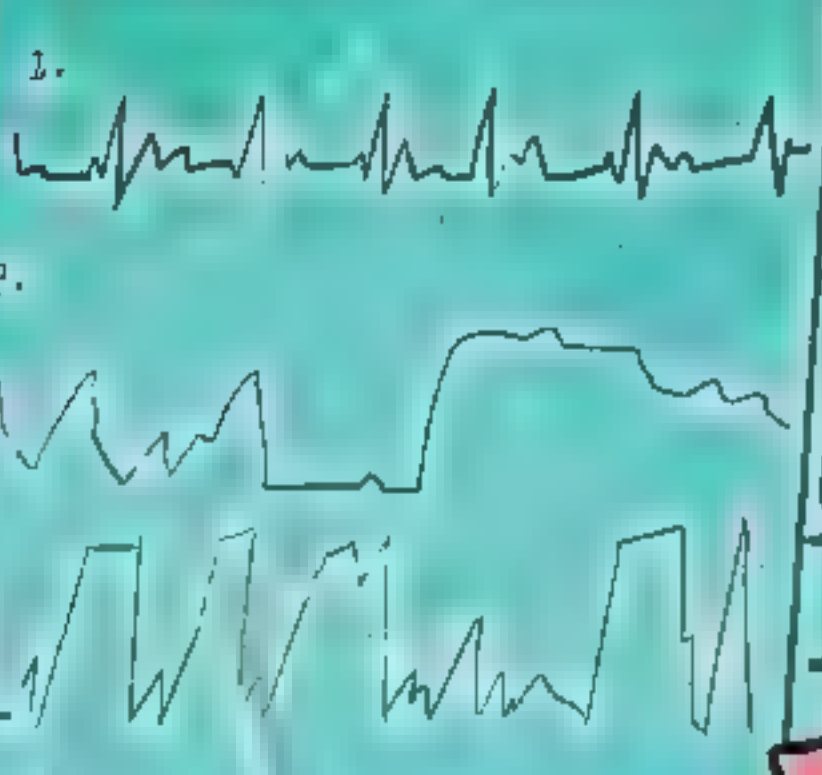
I HAVE.

ALL  
RIGHT, YOU  
SON OF A  
BITCH.

SOMEHOW  
I DIDN'T  
SEE IT.

VIRGINIA POLLUX

27°C





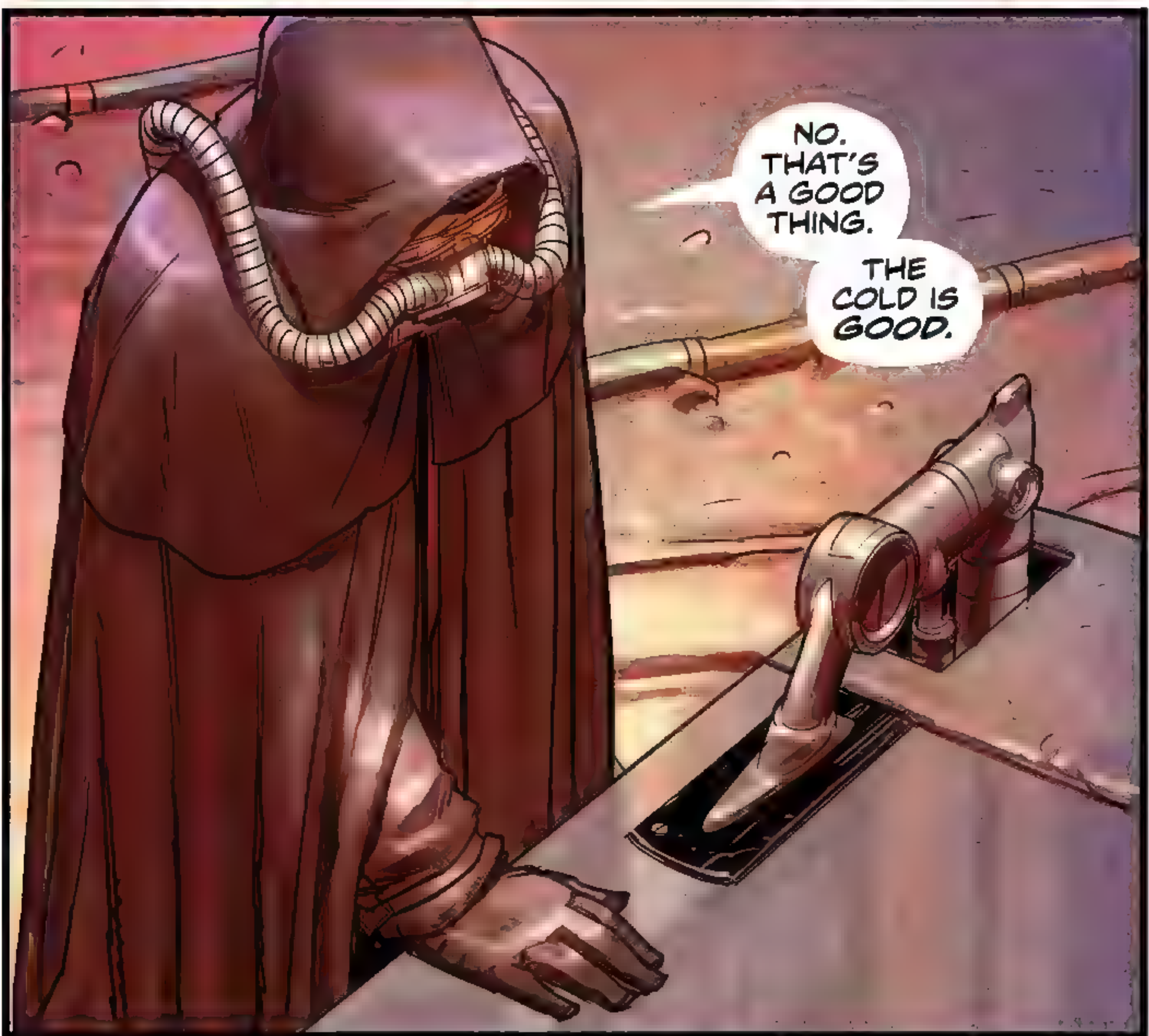


WHAT'S  
IT SAY?



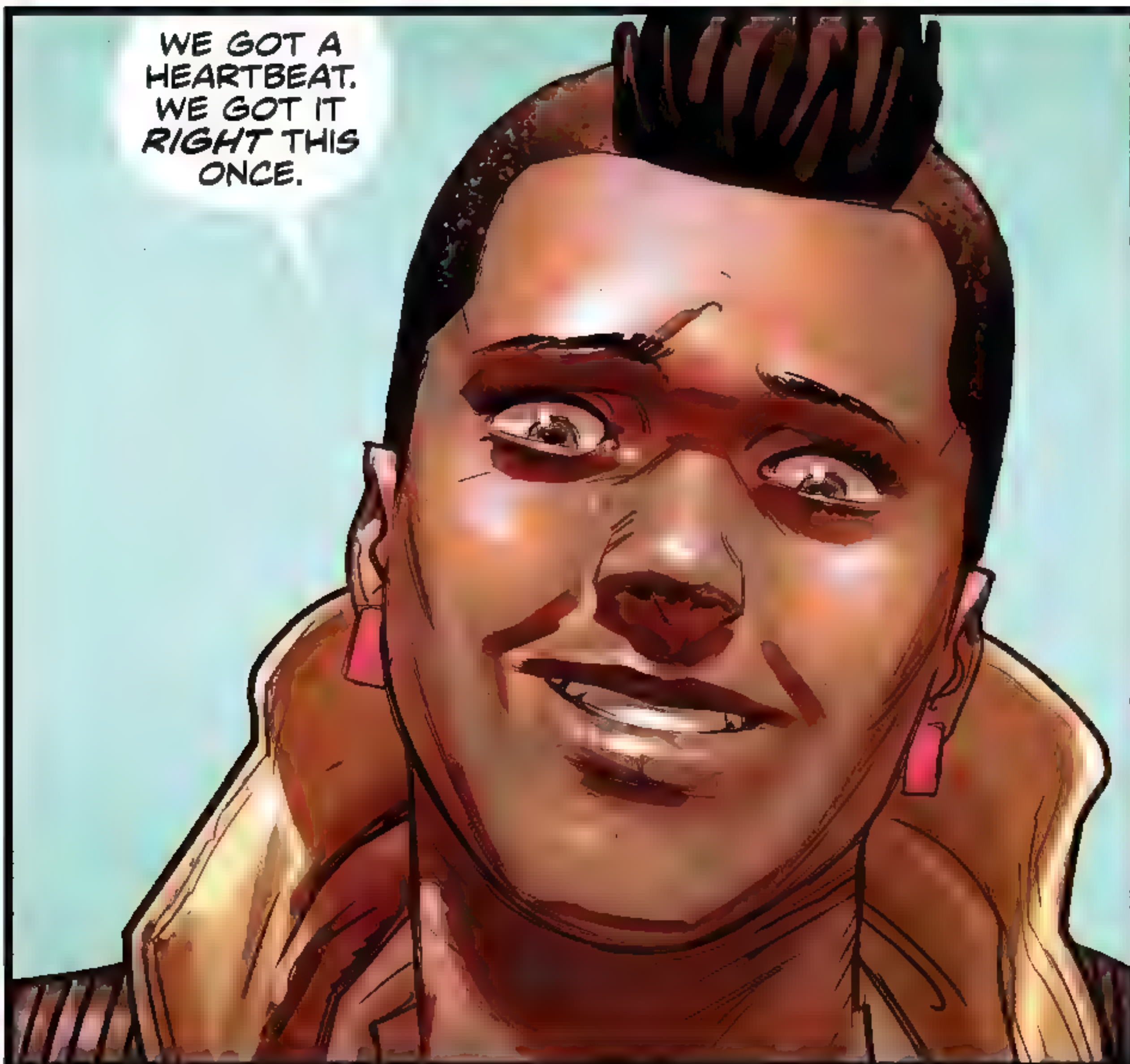
TEMP'S  
DROPPING  
FAST.

WELL,  
CAN YOU  
FIX IT?



NO.  
THAT'S  
A GOOD  
THING.

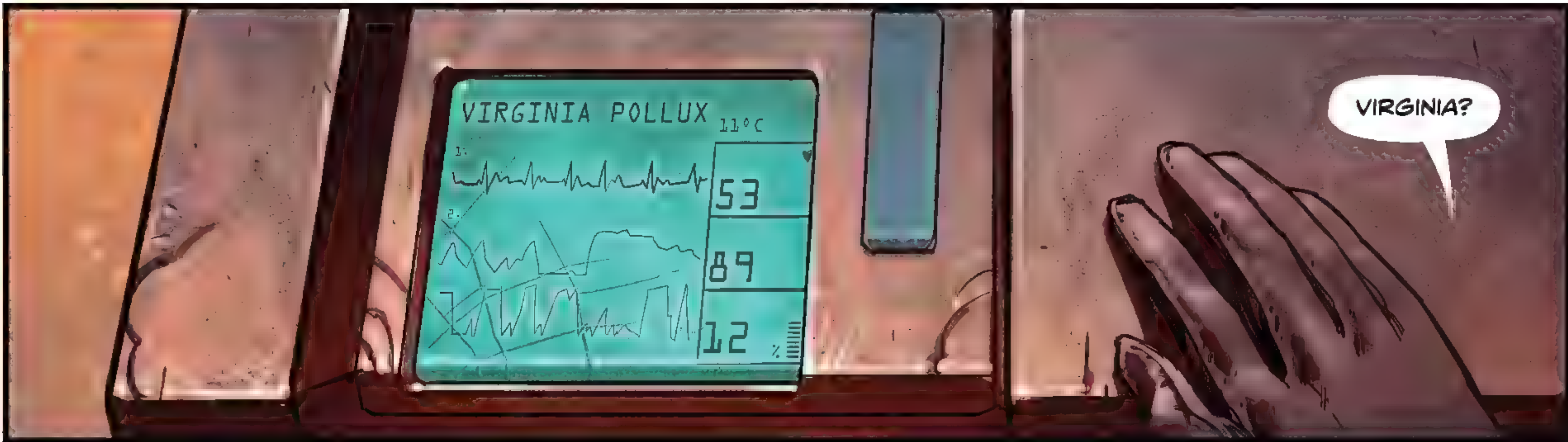
THE  
COLD IS  
GOOD.



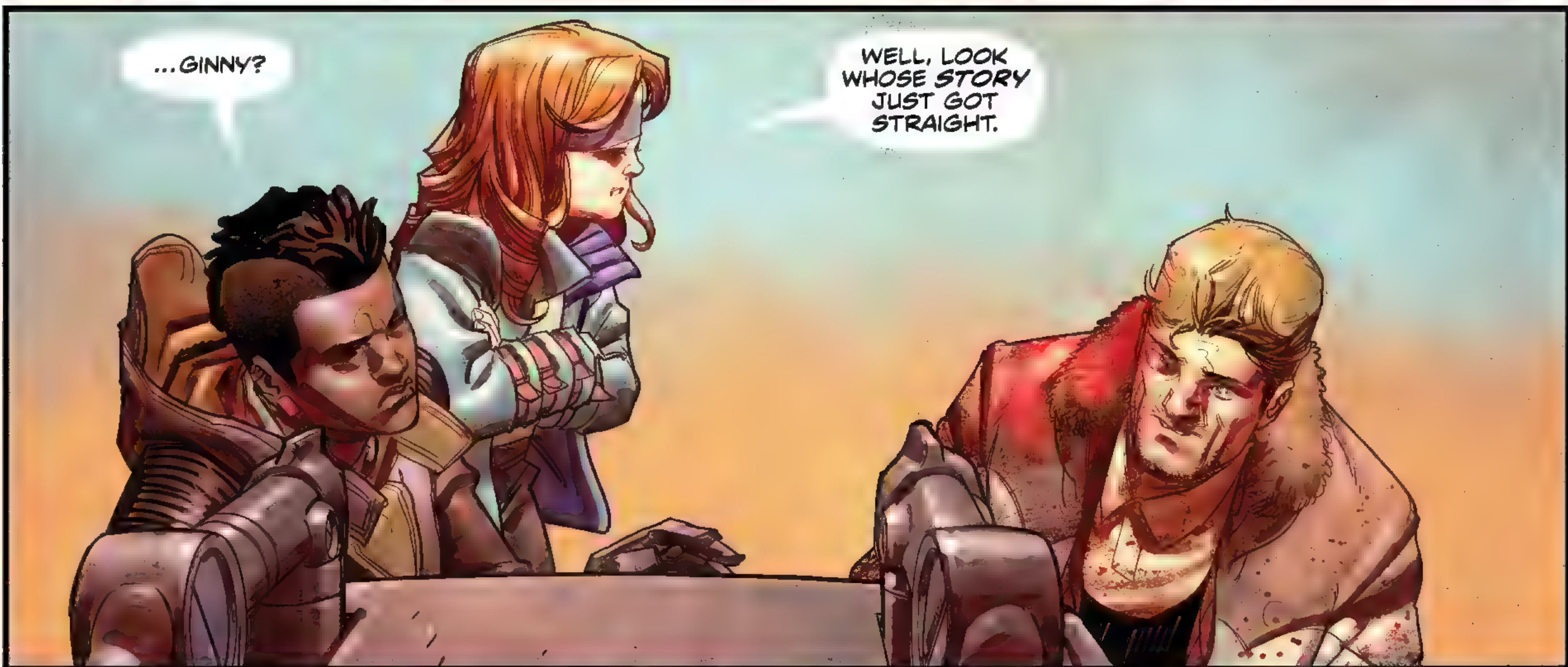
WE GOT A  
HEARTBEAT.  
WE GOT IT  
RIGHT THIS  
ONCE.







VIRGINIA?



...GINNY?

WELL, LOOK  
WHOSE STORY  
JUST GOT  
STRAIGHT.



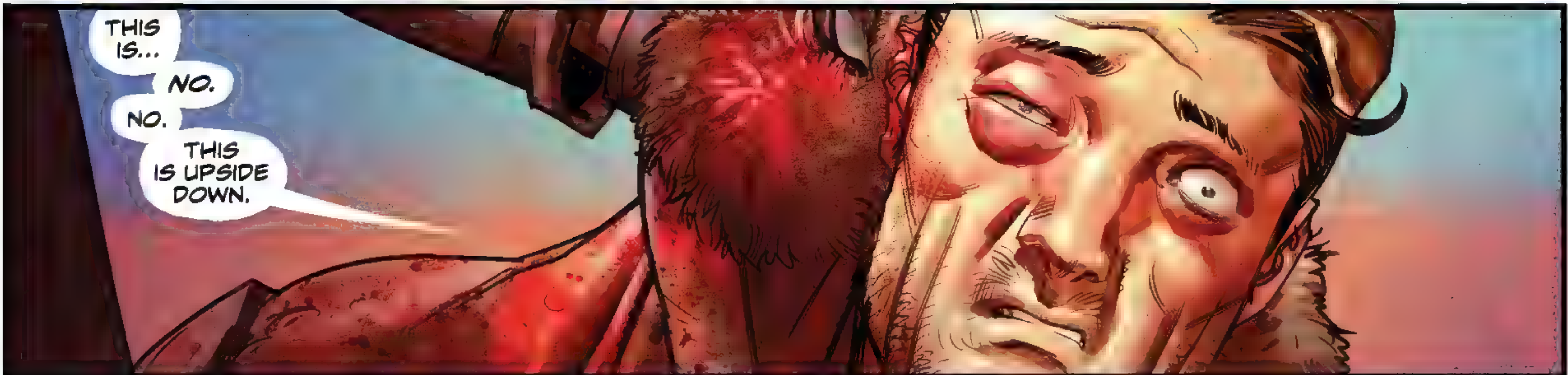
I SEE THAT NAME  
AND FEEL MY BONES  
TURNING TO DUST.





YOU WANNA  
TELL ME WHAT  
THIS IS?

WHY'S  
THIS MACHINE  
MARKED WITH  
YOUR LONG-  
LOST LADY'S  
NAME?



THIS  
IS...

NO.

NO.

THIS  
IS UPSIDE  
DOWN.



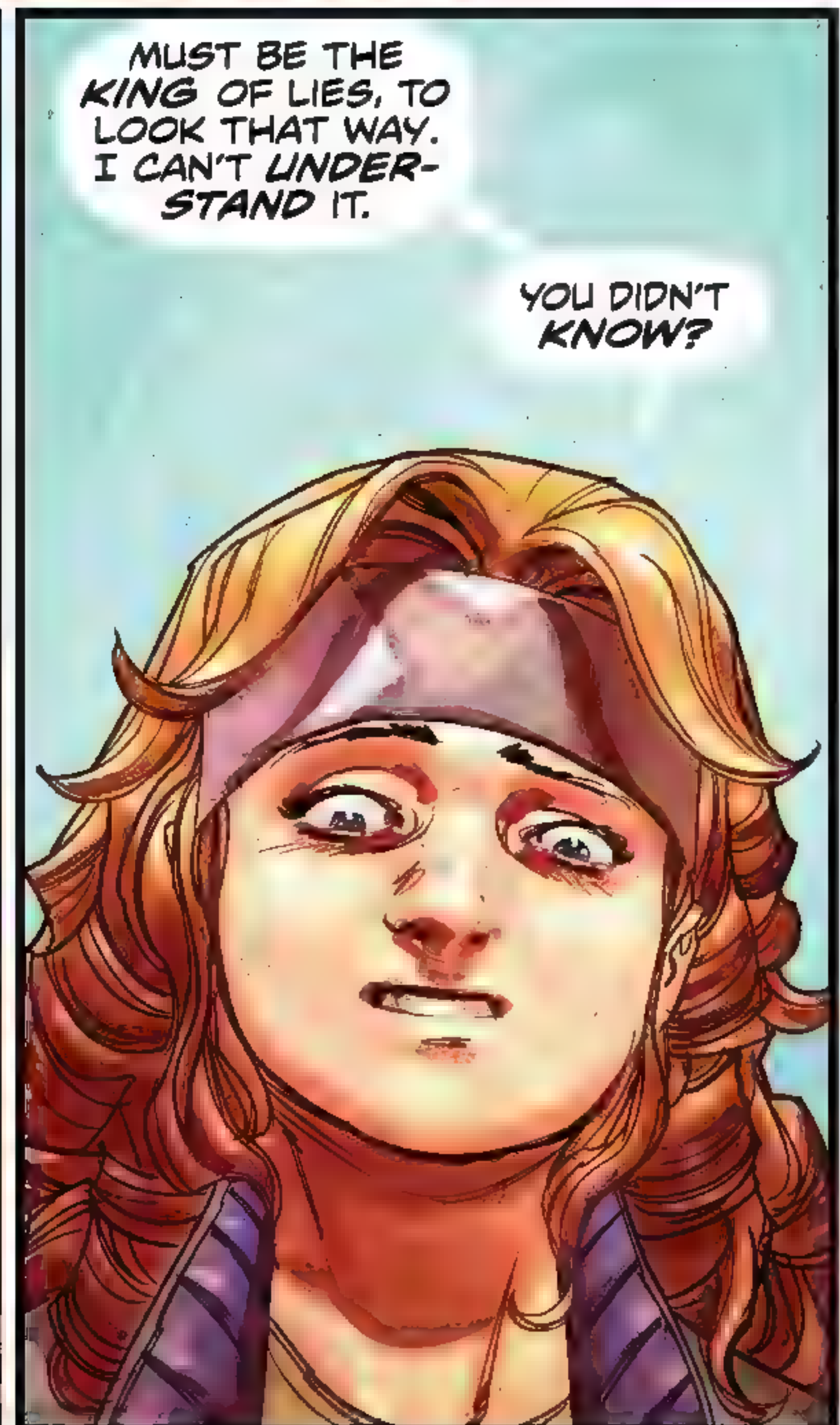
YOU GOT  
THE NERVE,  
TO SIT  
THERE...

AFTER  
WHAT YOU  
DONE...



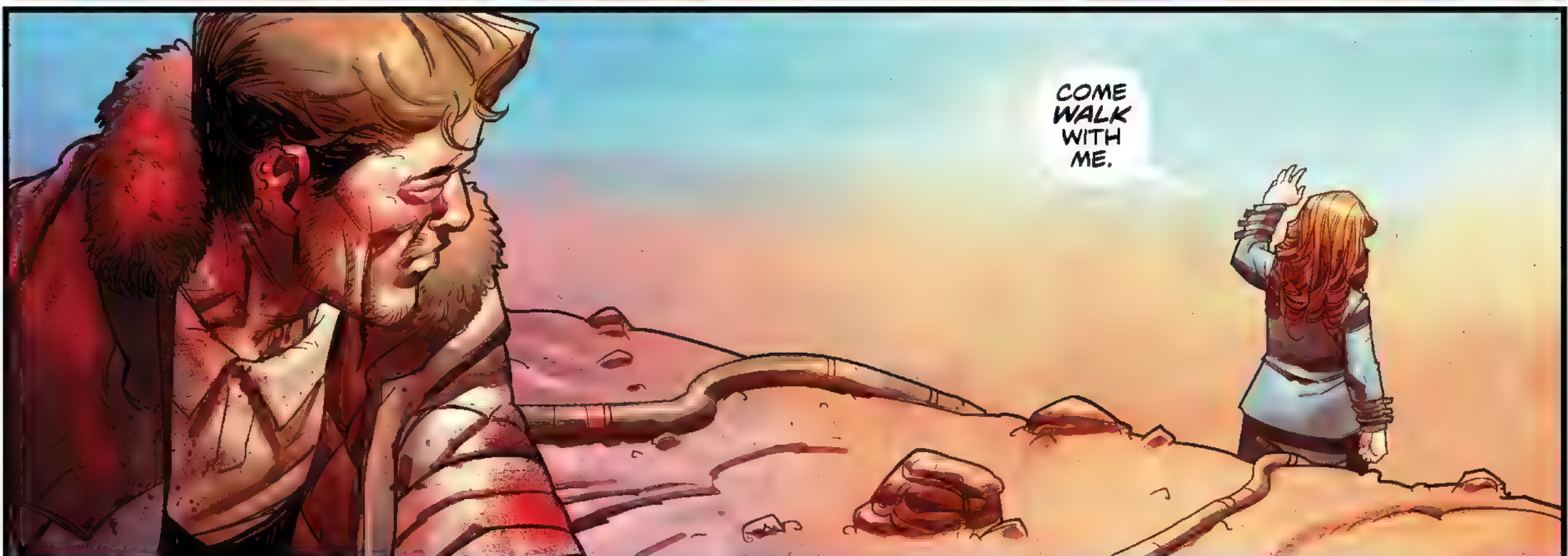
WHAT  
I...

WHAT  
HAVE I  
DONE?



MUST BE THE  
KING OF LIES, TO  
LOOK THAT WAY.  
I CAN'T UNDER-  
STAND IT.

YOU DIDN'T  
KNOW?



COME  
WALK  
WITH  
ME.





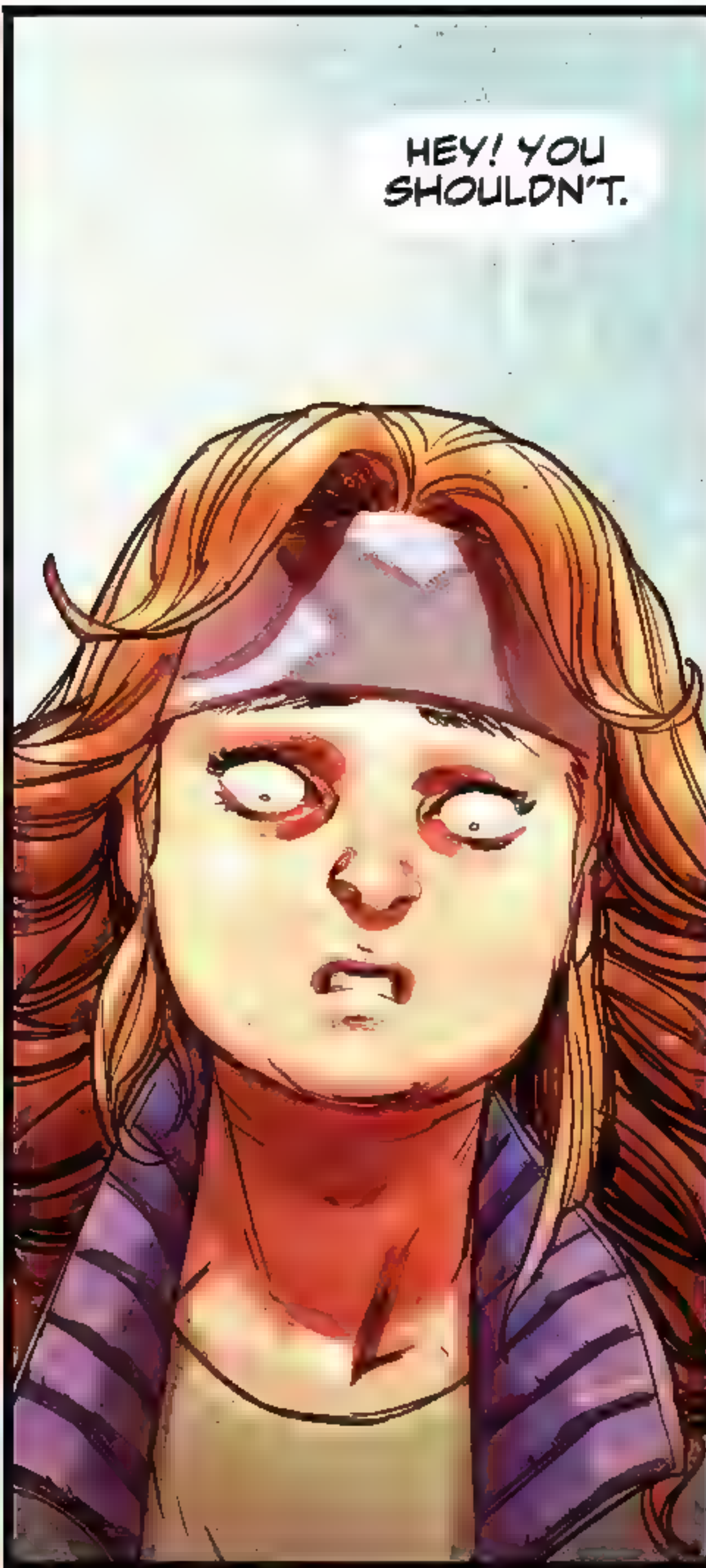




NO.



NOT THIS.



HEY! YOU SHOULDN'T.



NO.

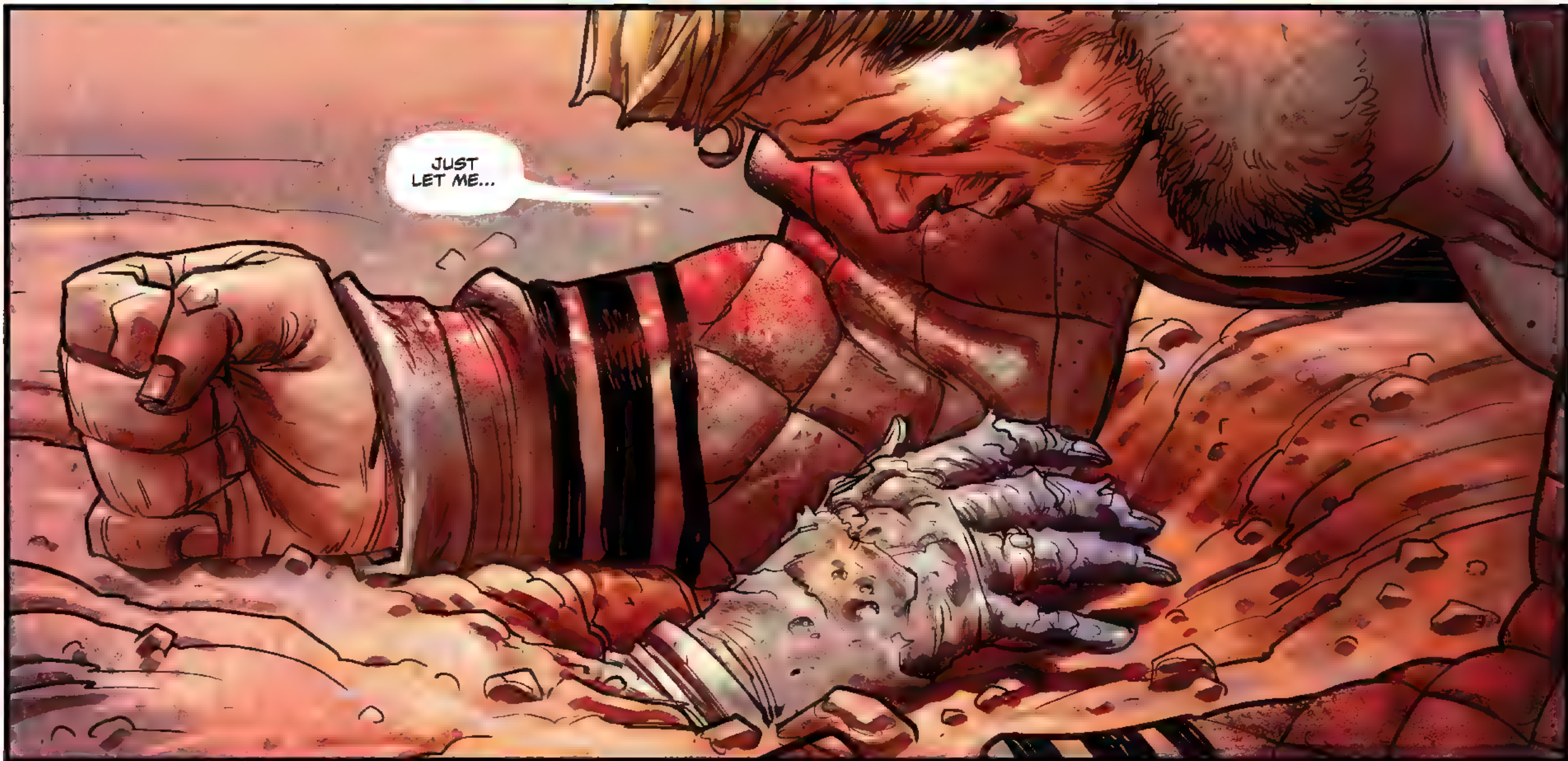


JUST COOL OFF, FRIEND. I DON'T THINK YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYIN' TO DO.

NO!

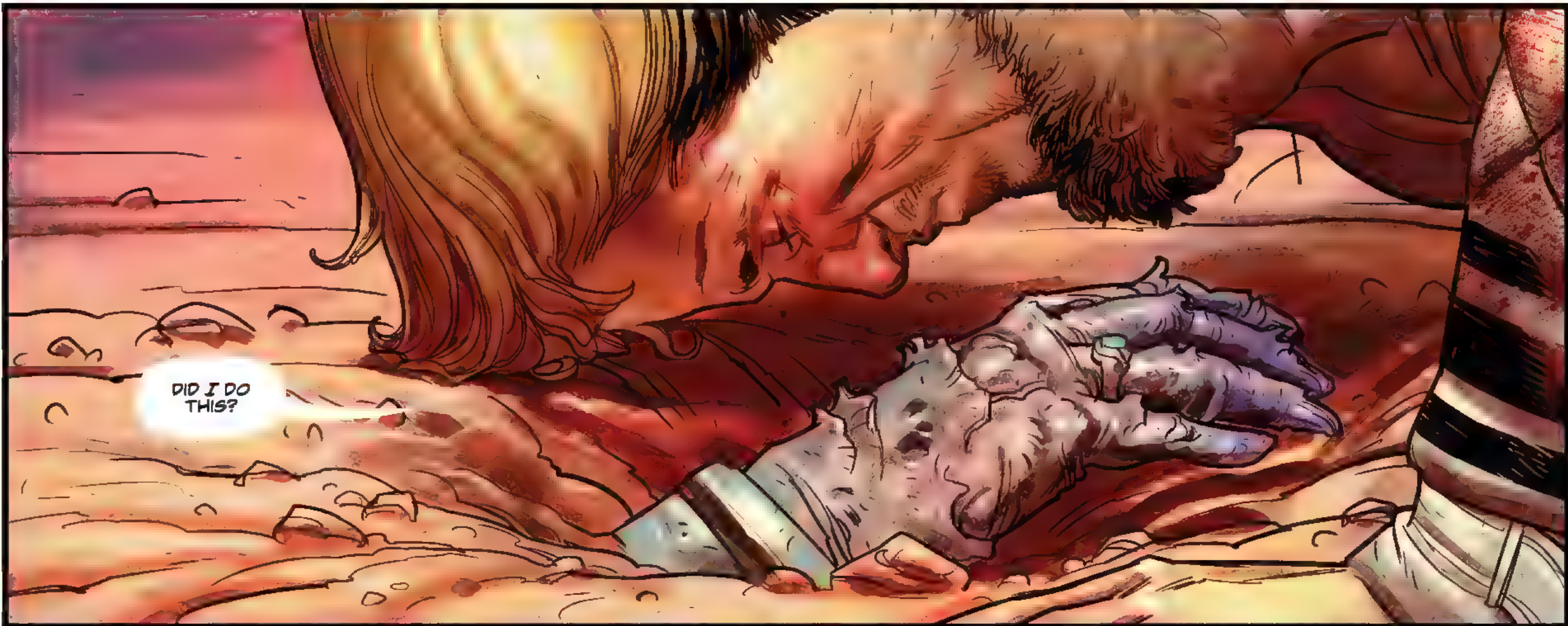


GET YOUR HANDS OFF A ME!

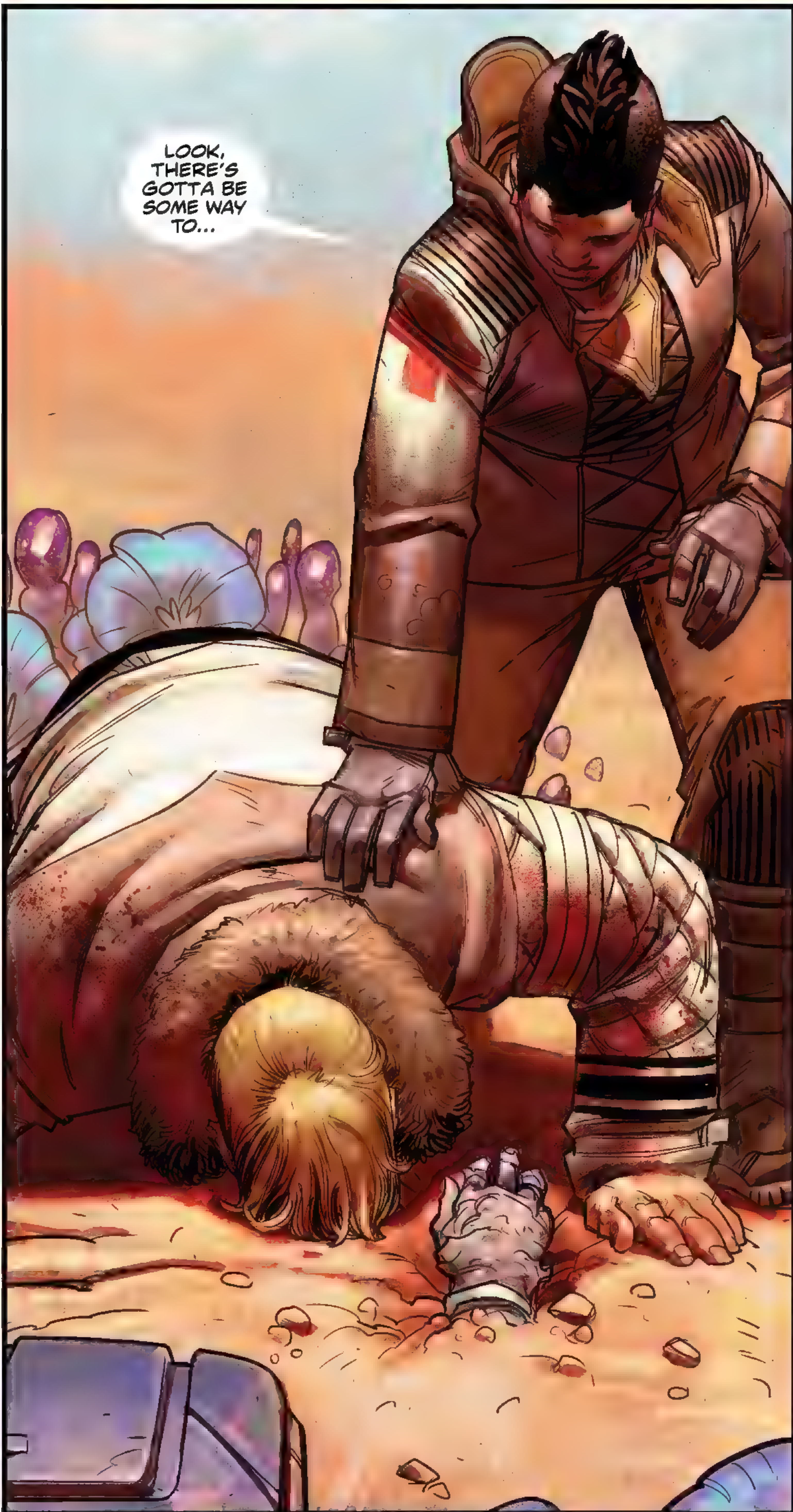


JUST LET ME...

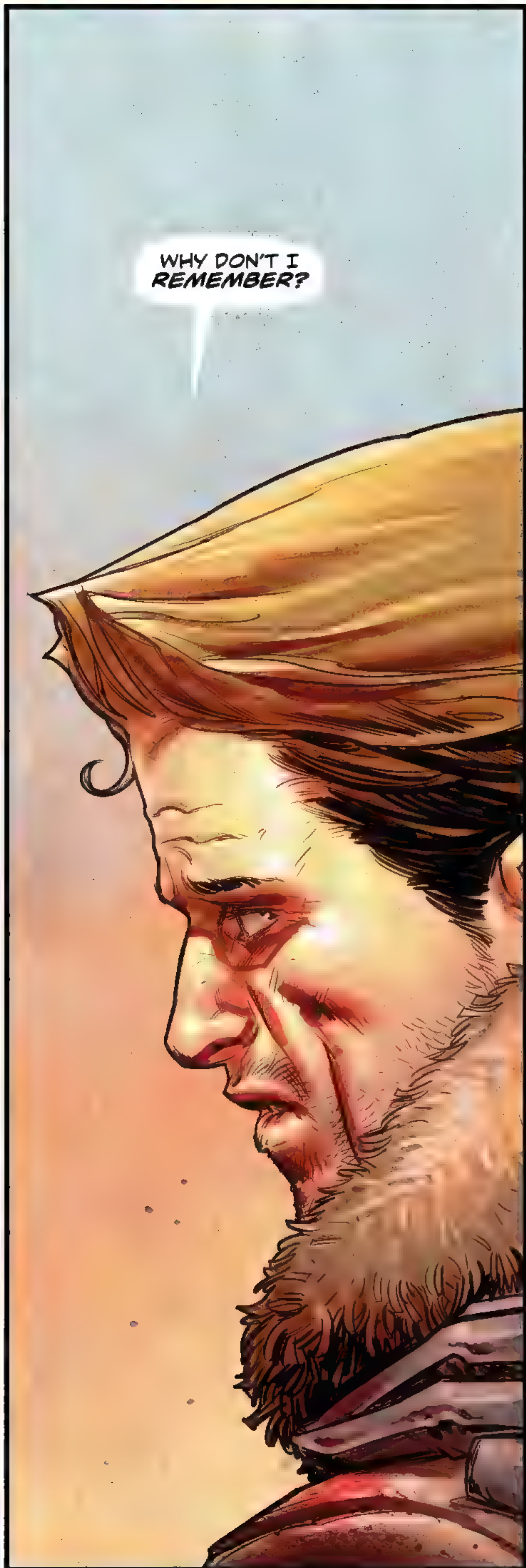




DID I DO  
THIS?



LOOK,  
THERE'S  
GOTTA BE  
SOME WAY  
TO...

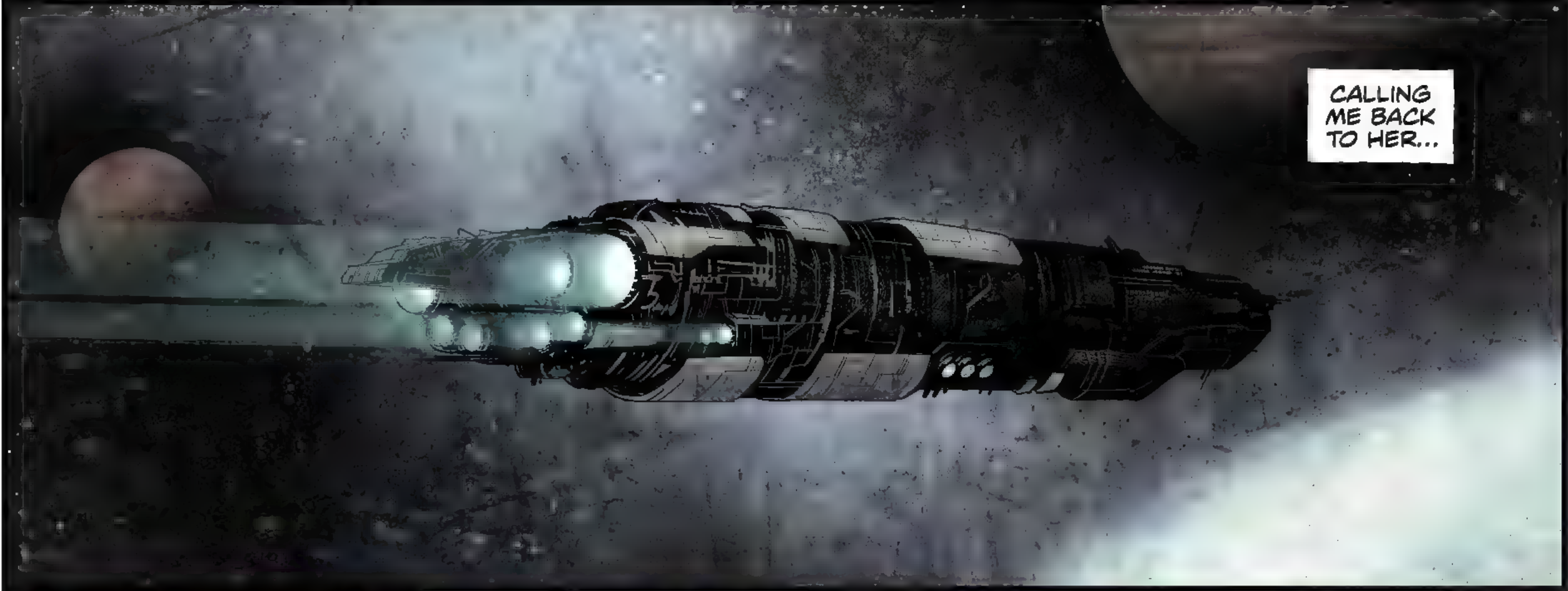


WHY DON'T I  
REMEMBER?

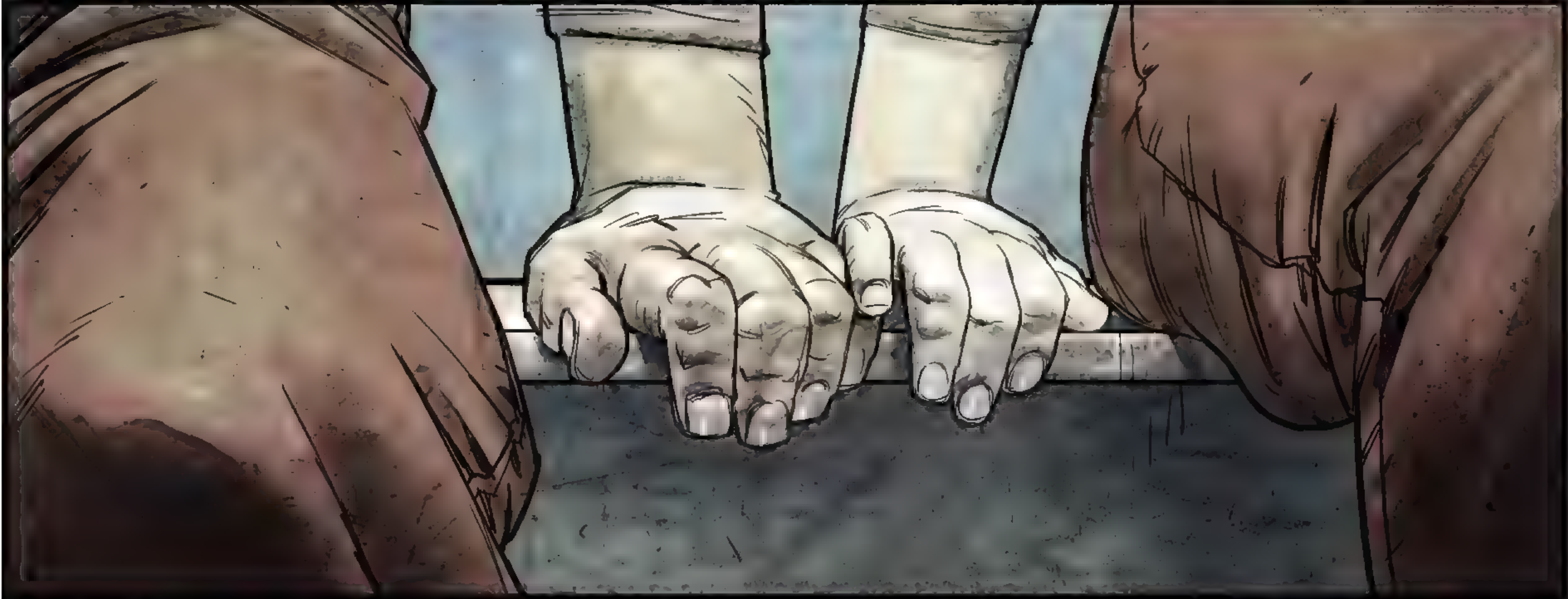




HANDFUL'A  
MOMENTS...I CAN  
ALMOST HEAR  
THE WAY SHE  
TALKED TO ME.

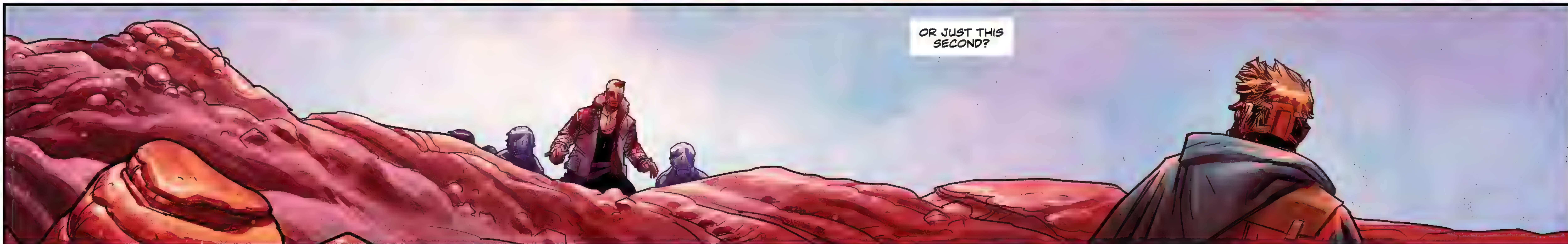
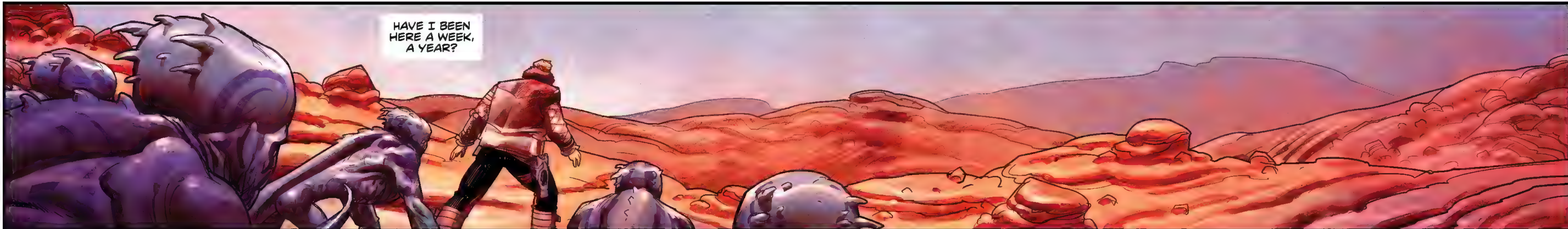
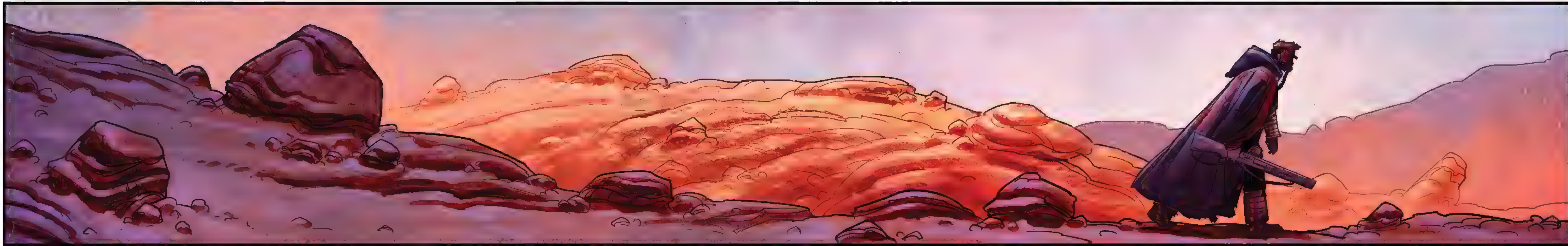
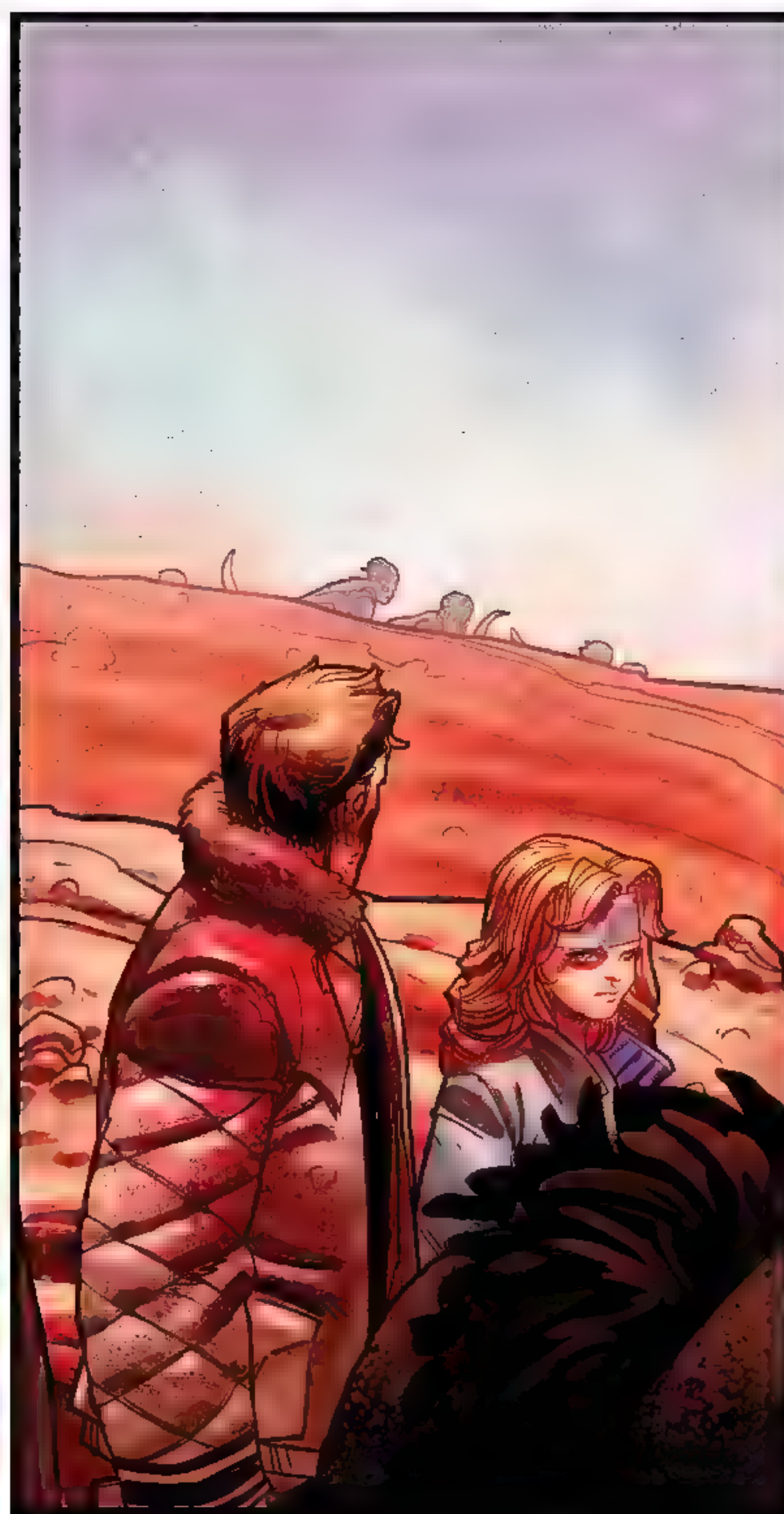


CALLING  
ME BACK  
TO HER...



WHAT  
IS THIS  
PLACE?







OR DID I  
DIE HERE AT  
THE START?



TO BE  
CONTINUED



DRIFTER created by Ivan Brandon and Nic Klein  
AN OFFSET COMICS PRODUCTION

Story:	Ivan Brandon & Nic Klein
Script:	Ivan Brandon
Full color art:	Nic Klein
Lettering:	Aditya Bidikar
Logo and design:	Tom Muller
Cover artists:	Cover A: Nic Klein Cover B: Nic Klein
Editor:	Sebastian Girner



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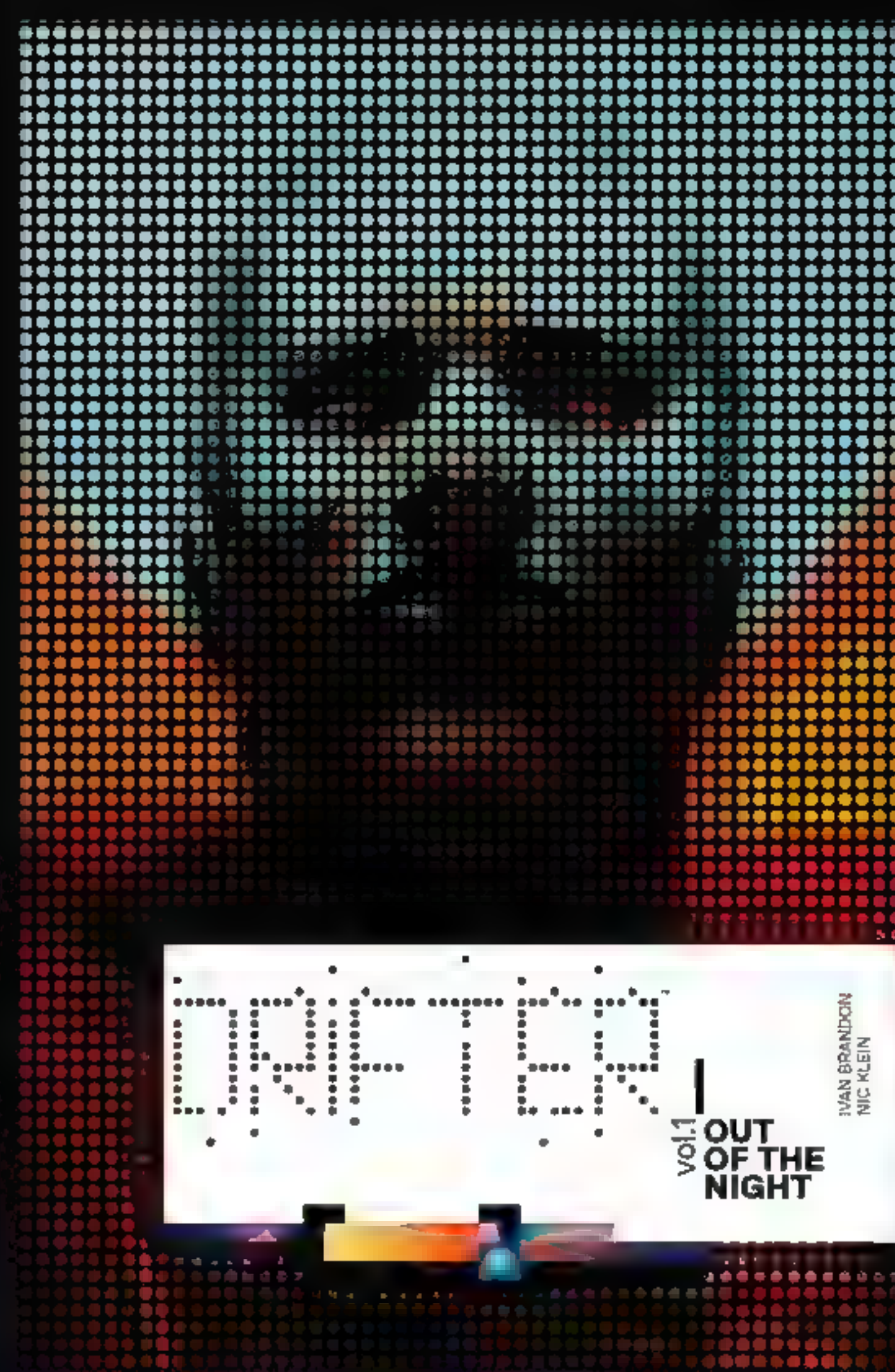
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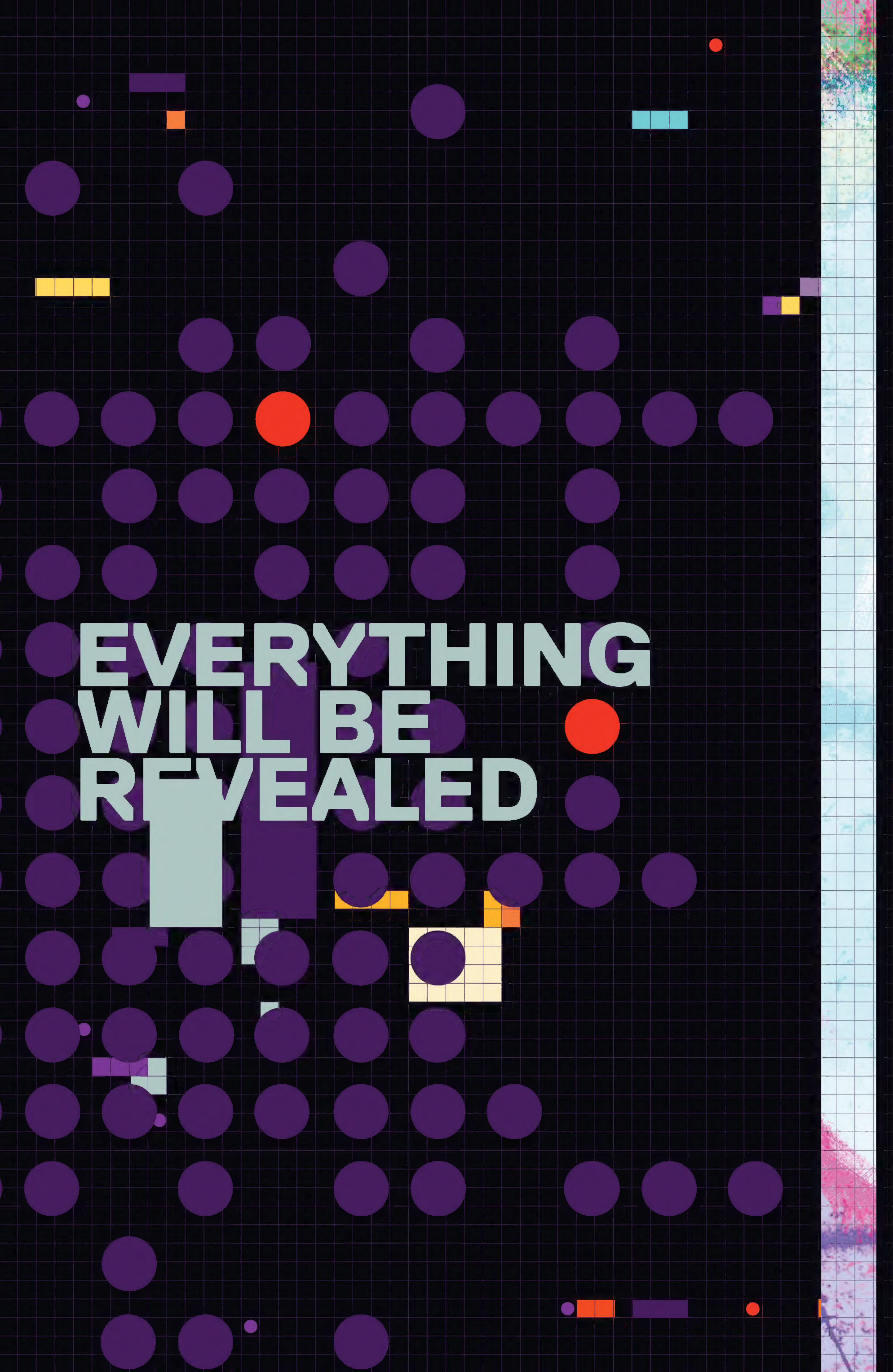
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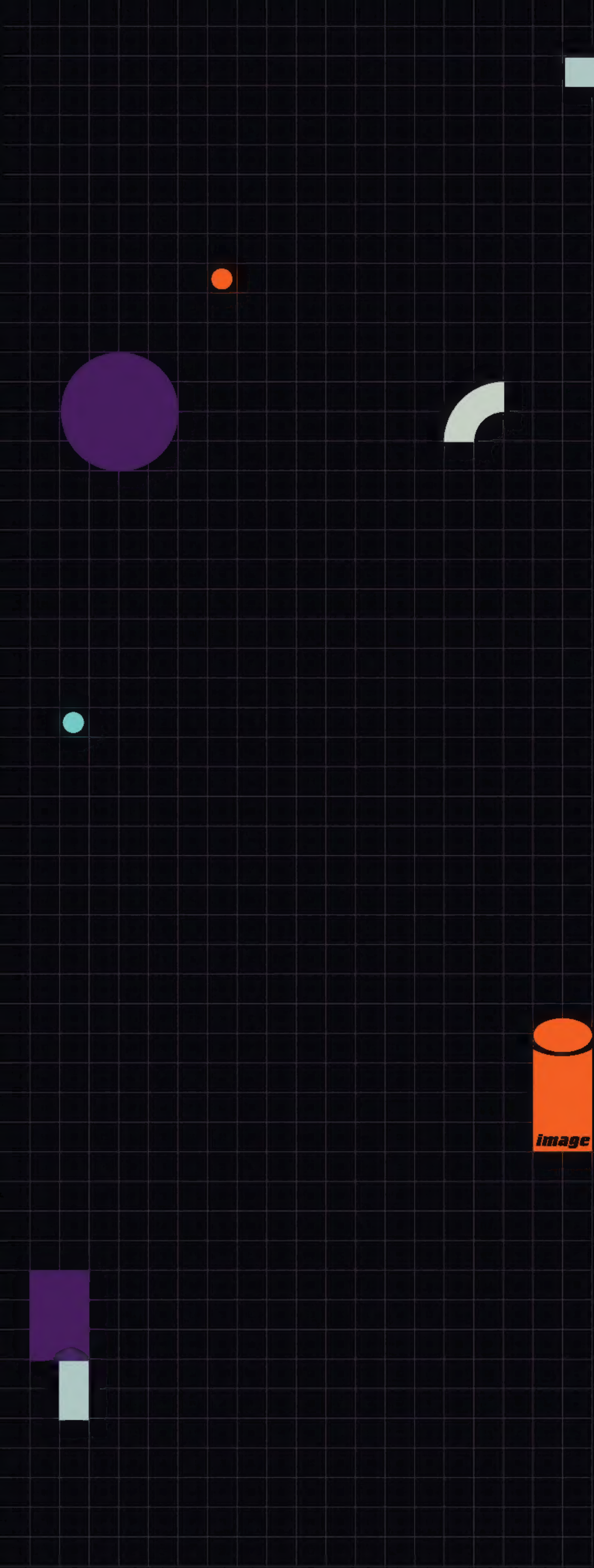
EVERYTHING  
WILL BE  
REVEALED



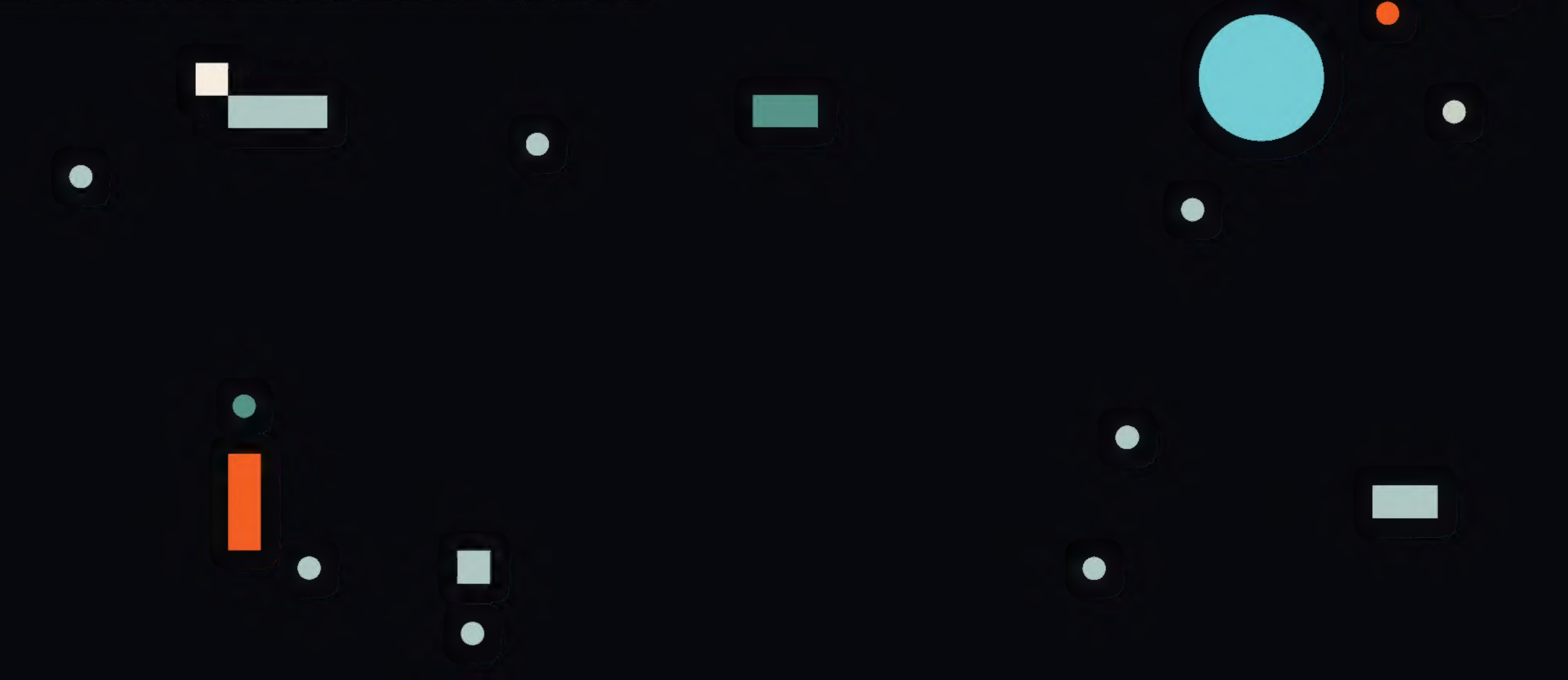
The background is a complex abstract composition. It features a light blue and white grid pattern overlaid on a dark, textured surface. There are numerous colorful splatters and brushstrokes in shades of pink, purple, blue, and red. Several solid-colored circles and squares are scattered across the image, including a large red circle on the left, a large purple circle on the right, and a small yellow square at the bottom right. The overall aesthetic is modern and artistic.

NEXT  
ISSUE:





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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...  
THIS MONSTER!"

